

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Gardiner Greene Hubbard and Gertrude M. Hubbard, August 5, 1875, with transcript

(Copy) 6 Salem, Mass. August 5th, 1875. Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard:

I am too full of grief for the deep pain and mortification that Mabel must have experienced on account of my foolish conduct towards her — to allow me to delay any longer in telling her so.

I know that I do not deserve to see her at all — and I shall not — unless she wishes it.

I have made up my mind to go to Nantucket and shall only delay my departure long enough to allow Mrs. Hubbard to accompany me if she desires to do so. I shall leave on Saturday morning at 11:15.

On arriving at the hotel I shall write to Mabel the best apology I can for having so wounded her feelings, and shall tell her that I wish to see her as I am now free to explain how it was that I came to act in the way I did.

I feel it my duty to go to her , instead of waiting till she returns home. It would be treating her as a child to think that it was necessary for her to be near her mother in order to receive my explanations.

The letter which was read to me yesterday was not the production of a girl — but of a true noble-hearted woman — and she should be treated as such.

I shall show my respect for her by going to Nantucket whether she will see me there or not.

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If she prefers to wait until her return home before seeing me — or if she feels that she cannot see me at all, and would rather receive explanations at your hands — I shall accept it as my punishment — and shall at least feel that I have done what I consider right and proper in the matter.

I was touched to the heart this morning when Mrs. Hubbard told me that Mabel desired to purchase a Pronouncing Distionary for it showed me how cruelly mortified she had been that her deafness had been made a theme of jest.

I am so sure that my feelings are leading me right in this matter, that I shall not ask permission from you now — but shall merely go.

I think it but just to you however that I inform you of my intention — that you may pursue whatever course seems best to you under the circumstances.

Believe me, dear Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard, Yours very respectfully, A. Graham Bell. Gardiner G. Hubbard, Esq., Brattle st., Cambridge.